



MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Date:	FEBRUARY 1, 2011 – COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Title:	EARTH HOUR PARTNERSHIP 2011
Submitted by:	Councillor Carella and Regional Councillor Schulte

Whereas climate change is the greatest threat to our planet's environment and therefore a major concern for all Canadians; and

Whereas at precisely 8:30 p.m. on March 26, 2011 major cities around the world will turn off their lights for one hour to raise awareness about climate change and to symbolize that, working together, the people of the world can make a difference in the fight against global warming; and

Whereas the event, called "Earth Hour" a World Wildlife Fund (WWF) initiative that was officially announced in December 2007 at the United Nations Conference on Climate Change, attracted the participation of almost 2.3 million Sydney residents, including more than 2,100 businesses, resulting in a 10 per cent reduction across the electrical grid, saving 25,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide, the equivalent of taking about 50,000 cars off the road for one hour; and

Whereas the following year, in 2008, Earth Hour became the biggest voluntary power reduction in history, with some 50 million people around the world switching off their lights for one hour, during which more than 370 municipalities took part in more than 35 countries across seven continents, including Antarctica, and across more than 18 different time zones; and

Whereas the municipalities in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) that took part in 2009, the City of Vaughan achieved an energy drop of 5%– compared to Aurora 8%, Markham 7%, Richmond Hill 27%;

Whereas several municipalities in the GTA have already signed up to participate in Earth Hour 2011; and

Whereas participating in this historic event sends a powerful message to every citizen and business around the world that it's possible to take action on climate change and that switching off our lights is just one simple action we can take to help make a difference; and

Whereas the goal is to educate the community on the threat of climate change and what each individual and business does to make a difference every day; and to get as many individuals, households, and businesses as possible to turn off their lights as a symbolic statement that now is the time to take action on climate change; and

Whereas participating in this historic event sends a powerful message to every citizen and business that the City of Vaughan cares about our planet and is willing to take a leadership position against climate change and global warming;

Whereas Earth Hour is a symbolic event where people around the world are encouraged to turn off their lights for one hour to show support for action on climate change. Millions of people around the globe turning off our lights together demonstrates that individual efforts, when taken together, add up a big difference and can be as easy as a flick of a switch

It is therefore recommended that Council approve the venue for the Earth Hour celebrations to be at Woodbridge Pool and Arena parking lot and that the lights in the parking lot be turned off from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.; and

That the loan of the City of Vaughan Showmobile, Woodbridge Pool and Arena (parking lot and hall), tables, chairs and services in kind (garbage bins, blue boxes, etc.) to the local Earth Hour 2011 Committee be approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Tony Carella

Regional Councillor Deb Schulte

Attachments

None